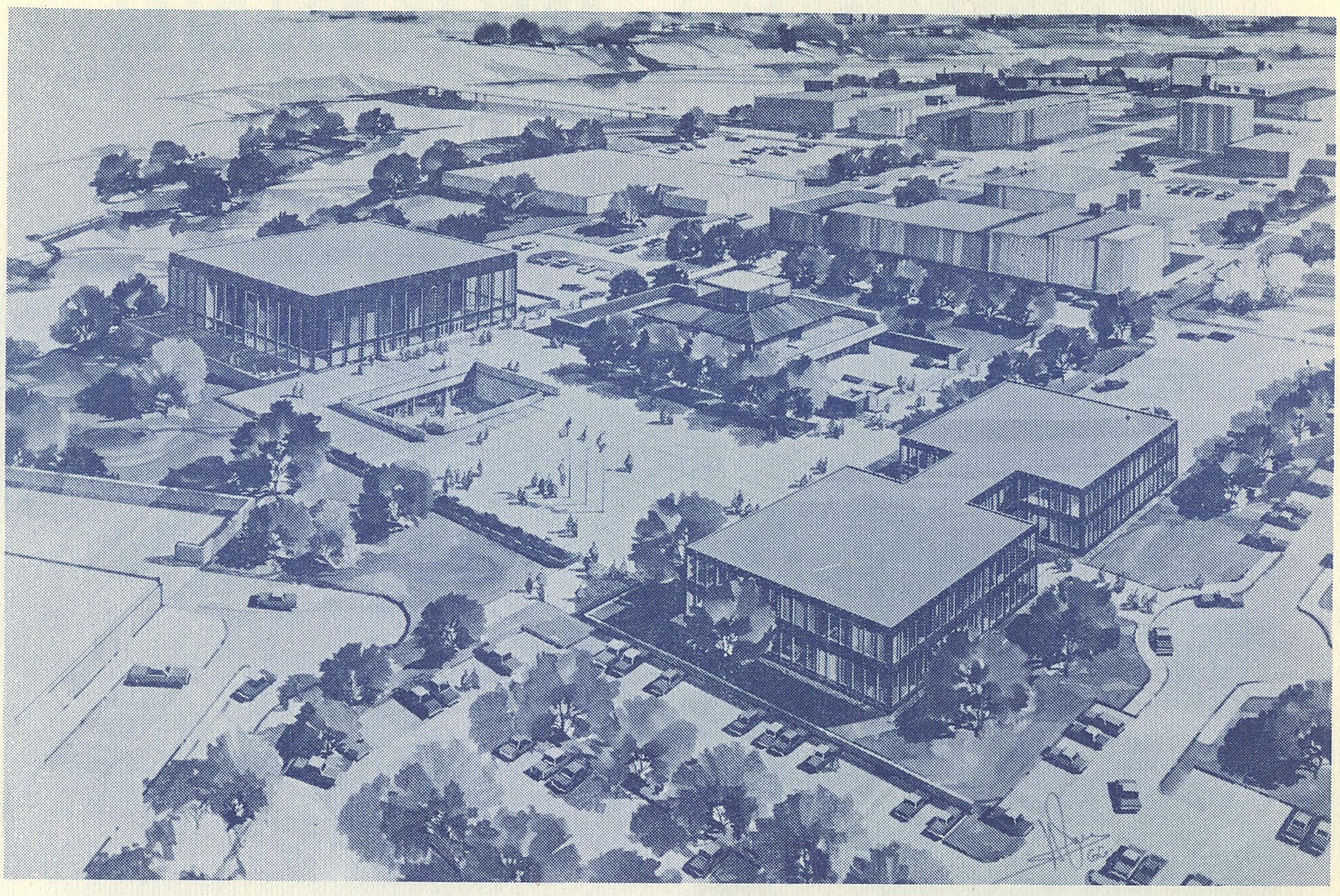
CITY OF ELGIN

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

DEDICATION

Sunday

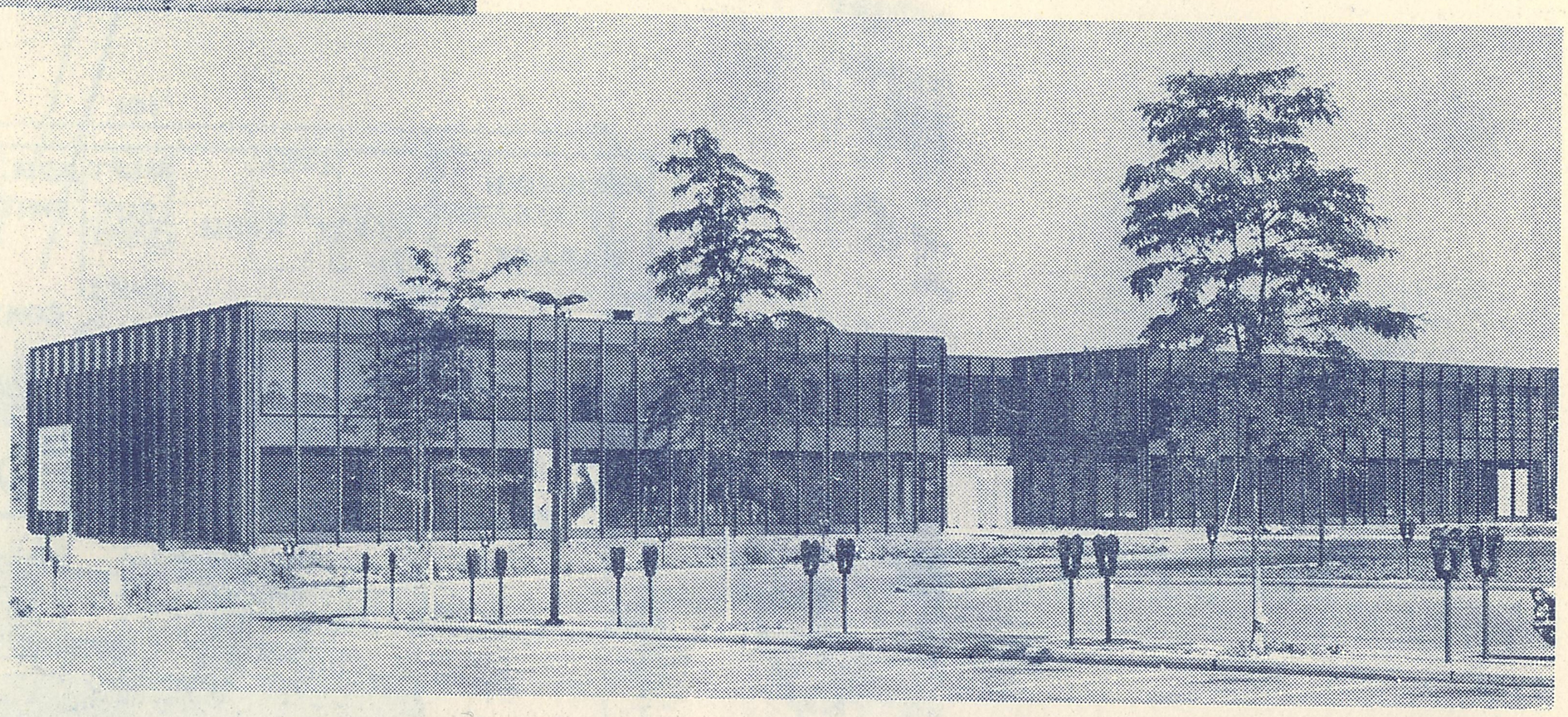
February 2, 1969



The City Hall is part of the Elgin Civic Center. The land was acquired with the assistance of a federal grant under the Urban Renewal Act. The other buildings in the Center include the U.S. Post Office, the Appellate Court, the Township Library and the Hemmens Memorial Community Building Auditorium. The total cost of the project, including the land, site development and the cost of the five buildings, is approximately $12,000,000.00.

OLD

NEW



MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

CITY COUNCIL

E. C. Alft, Mayor

William Y. Barber — William E. Rauschenberger

Nufrio Santanni — Earl F. Tillery

Robert L. Brunton, City Manager

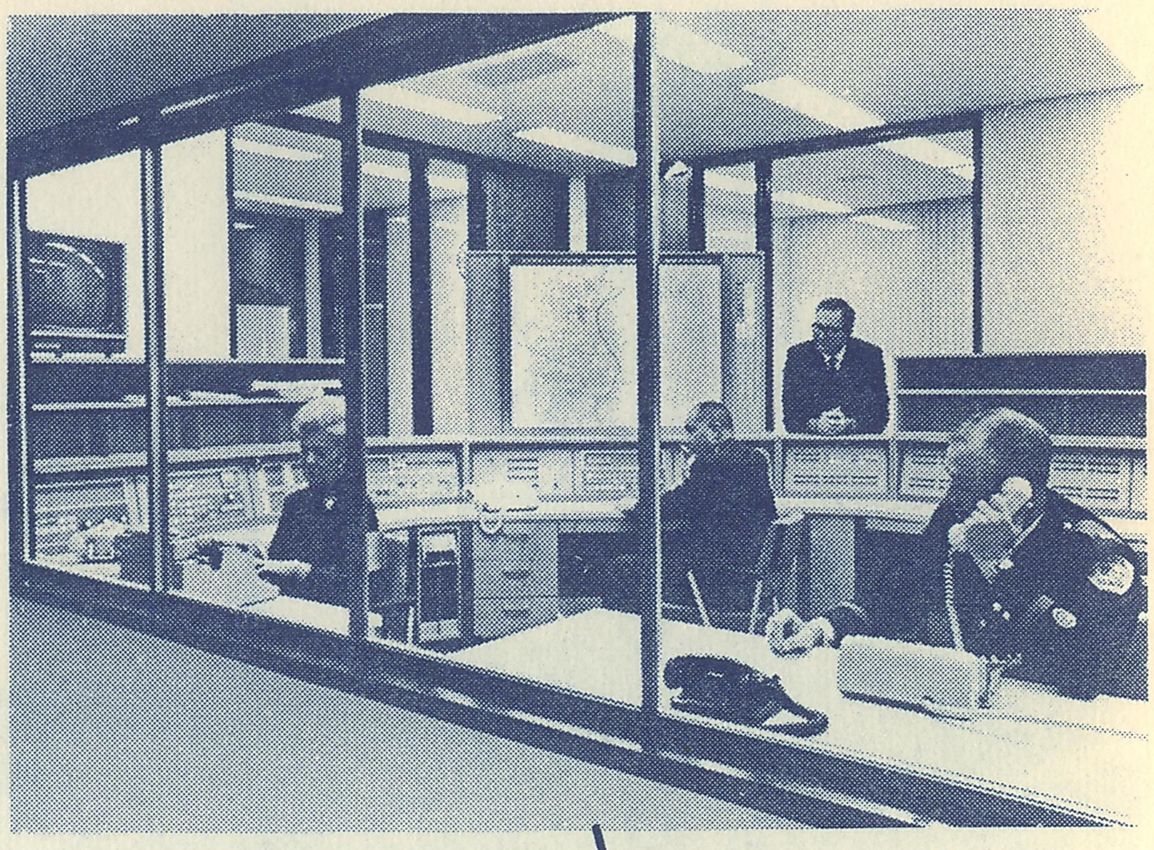
Gordon Abbott, Corporation Counsel
Thomas Belton, Parks & Recreation Dir.
James Bolerjack, Finance Director
Jack Brown, Transportation Dept.
James Hansen, Police Chief
Carl Jepson, Water Department
Norman D. Johnson, Housing & Health Dir.
Lawrence Kramka, Building-Maintenance
Lee Krueger, Public Works Director
Norman Nelson, City Engineer
Marvin Schmidt, Cemetery Director
Margaret Shales, City Clerk
George VandeVoorde, Fire Chief

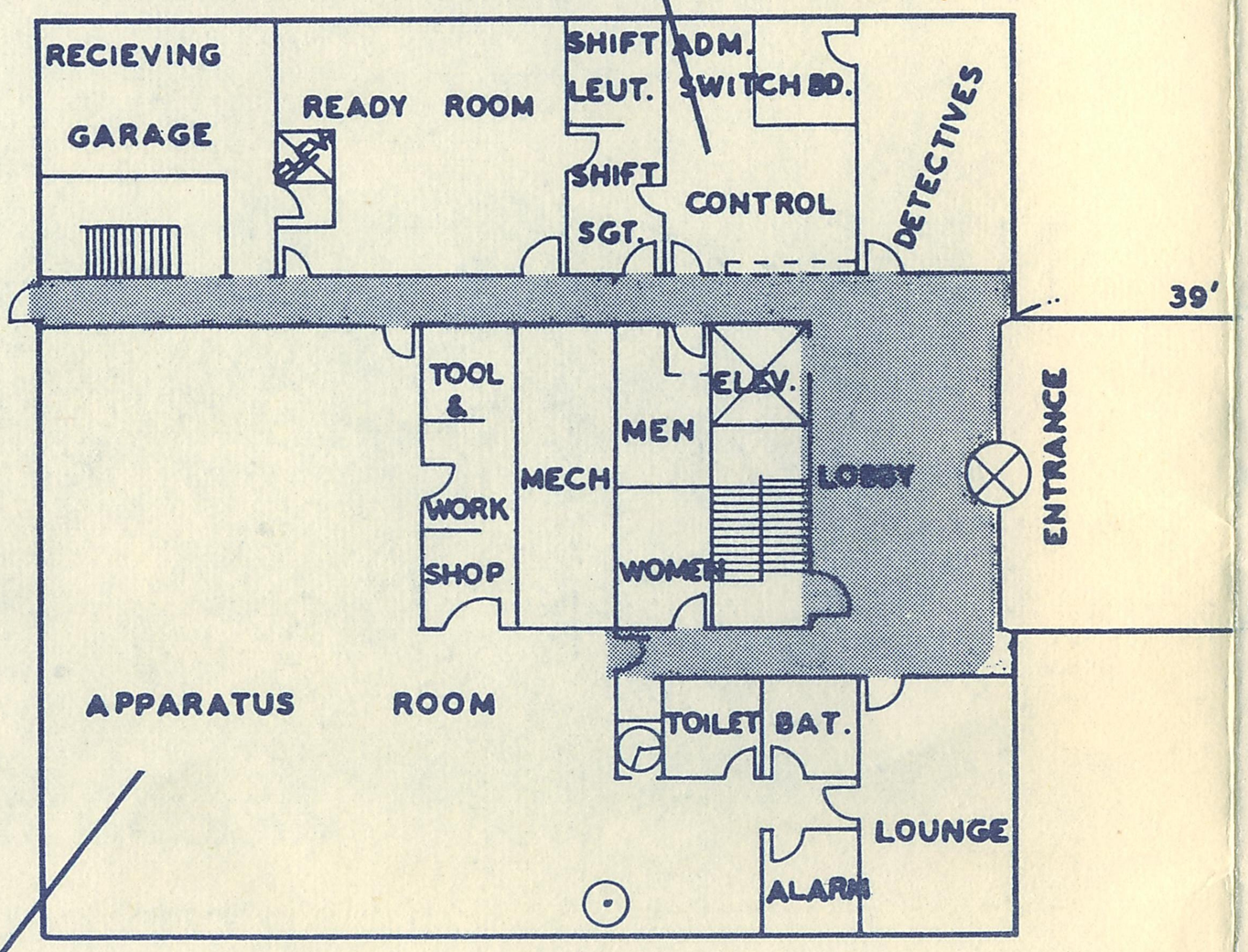
A. H. Sollinger Construction Company ..... General Construction
Sievert Corporation ..... Heating & Refrigeration
Carey Electric ..... Electrical
Elgin Sheet Metal ..... Venting & Air-Conditioning
Bero Plumbing ..... Plumbing & Drainage
Barber-Coleman Company ..... Temperature Control

Kaltenbach & Rennie/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Architects,
W. A. Gavelek, Mechanical Engineer

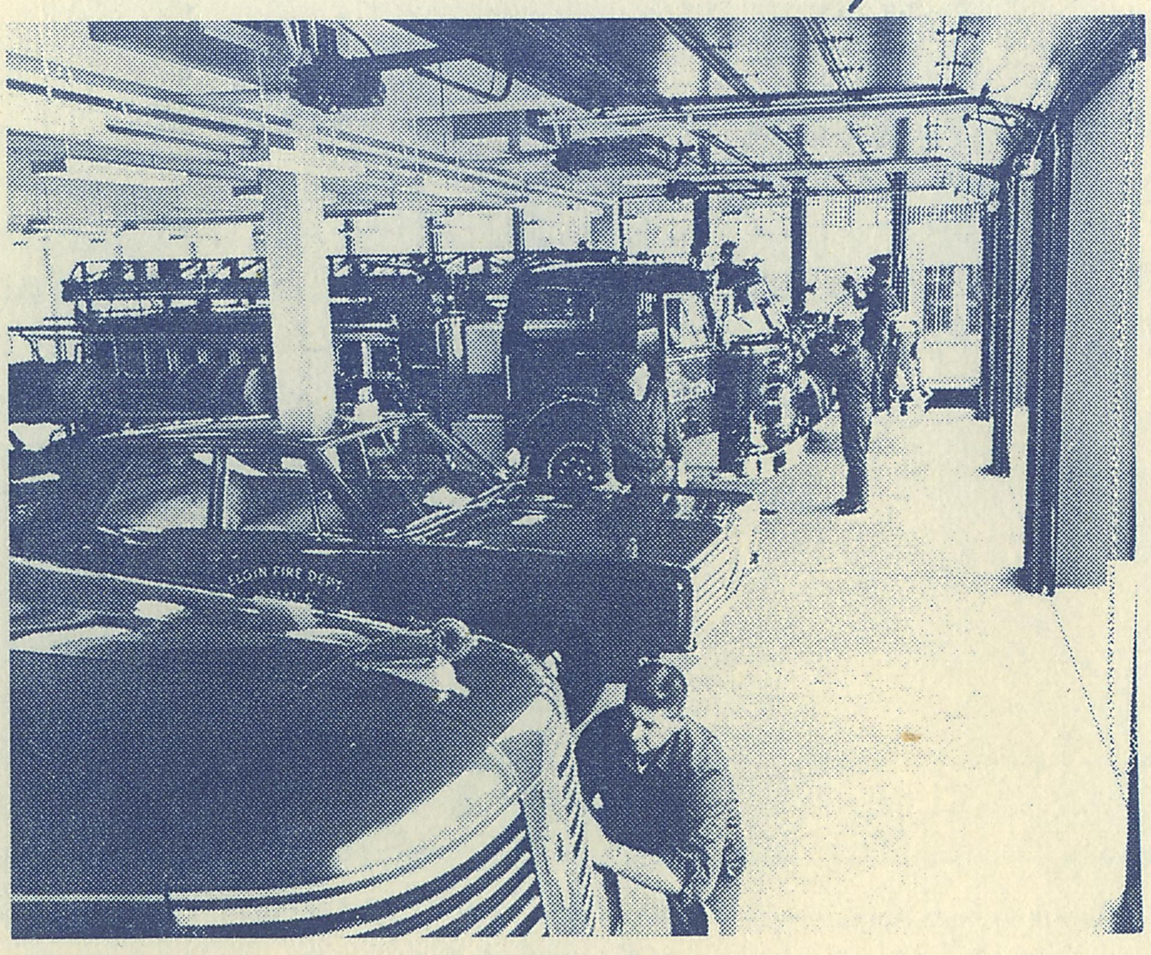
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center is the nerve-center of the City of Elgin. Operating 24 hours a day throughout the year, the Center is manned and ready to respond to your calls for Police and Fire service. With the aid of the Status Map above the center console, and other ultra-modern equipment, the Center maintains contact with police and fire operating units throughout the City. The Center is also responsible for internal security. By means of a two-way intercom system and closed circuit television, the jail and security areas are constantly monitored.





FIRST FLOOR

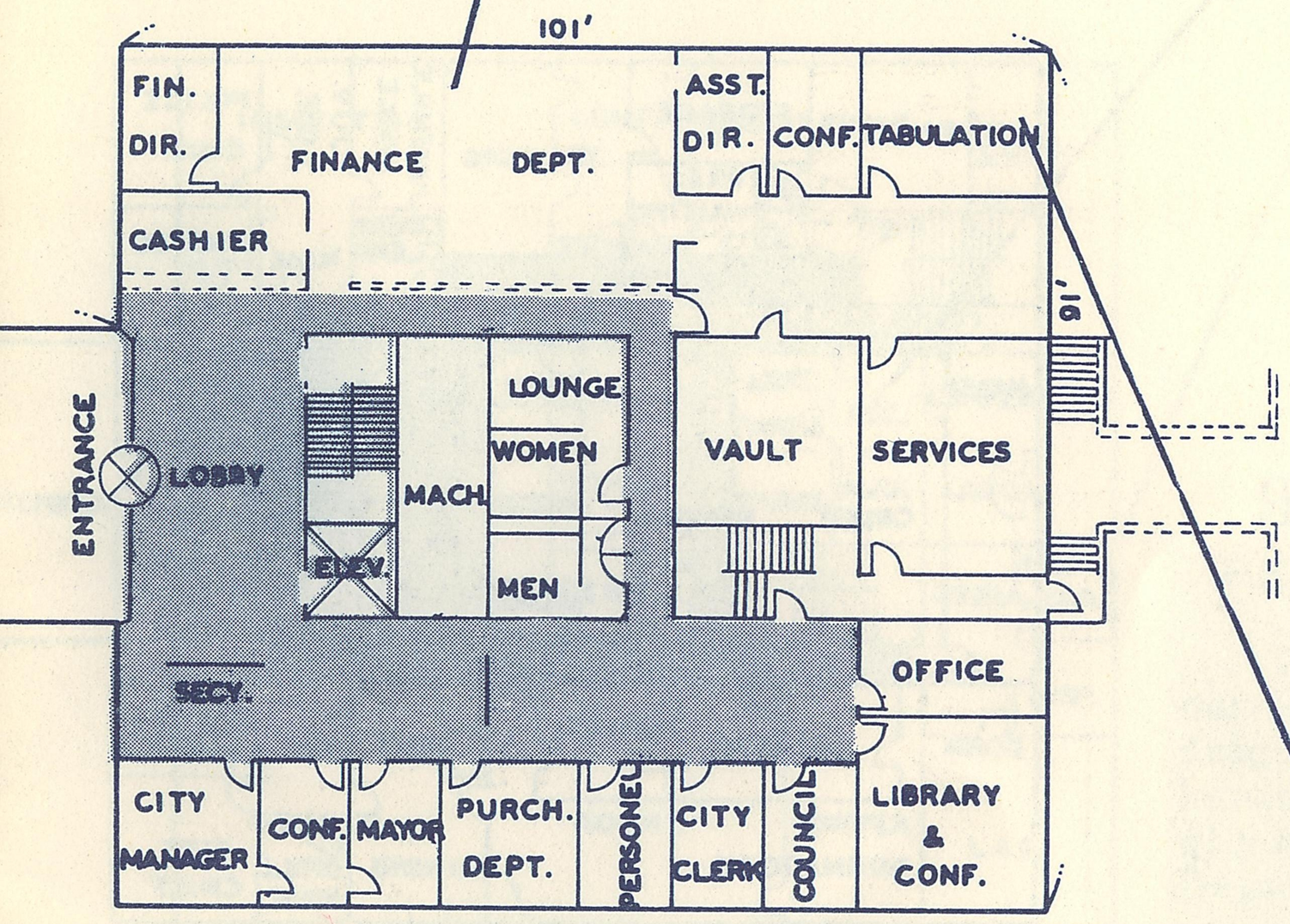


NO. 1 FIRE STATION

The Municipal Building provides a strategic and efficient location for the City's No. 1 Fire Station. The new station houses several important pieces of fire-fighting equipment and will be the home of the City's snorkel. In addition to the apparatus floor (pictured), the lower level contains a living area, lounge and mechanics room. The Administrative offices, kitchen and dining room, and a 10-bed dormitory are on the second floor.

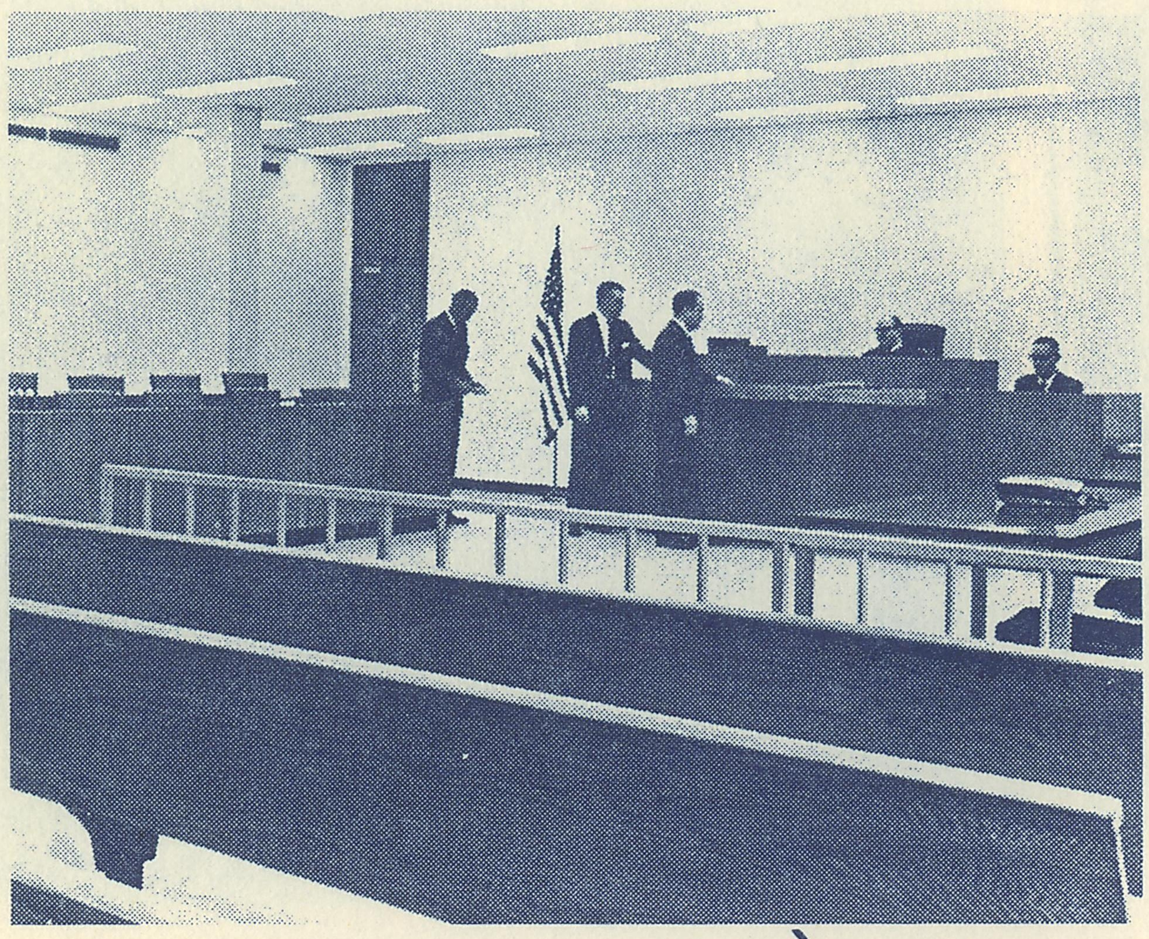
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The offices of the Finance Department are located in the South tower of the Municipal Building on the first floor. These modern attractive offices are designed for your convenience and accessibility in paying monies and requesting information involving birth and death records, parking tickets. vehicle registration and water bills. Systematic record storage and up-to-date business machines ensure that your vital records are handled promptly and accurately.



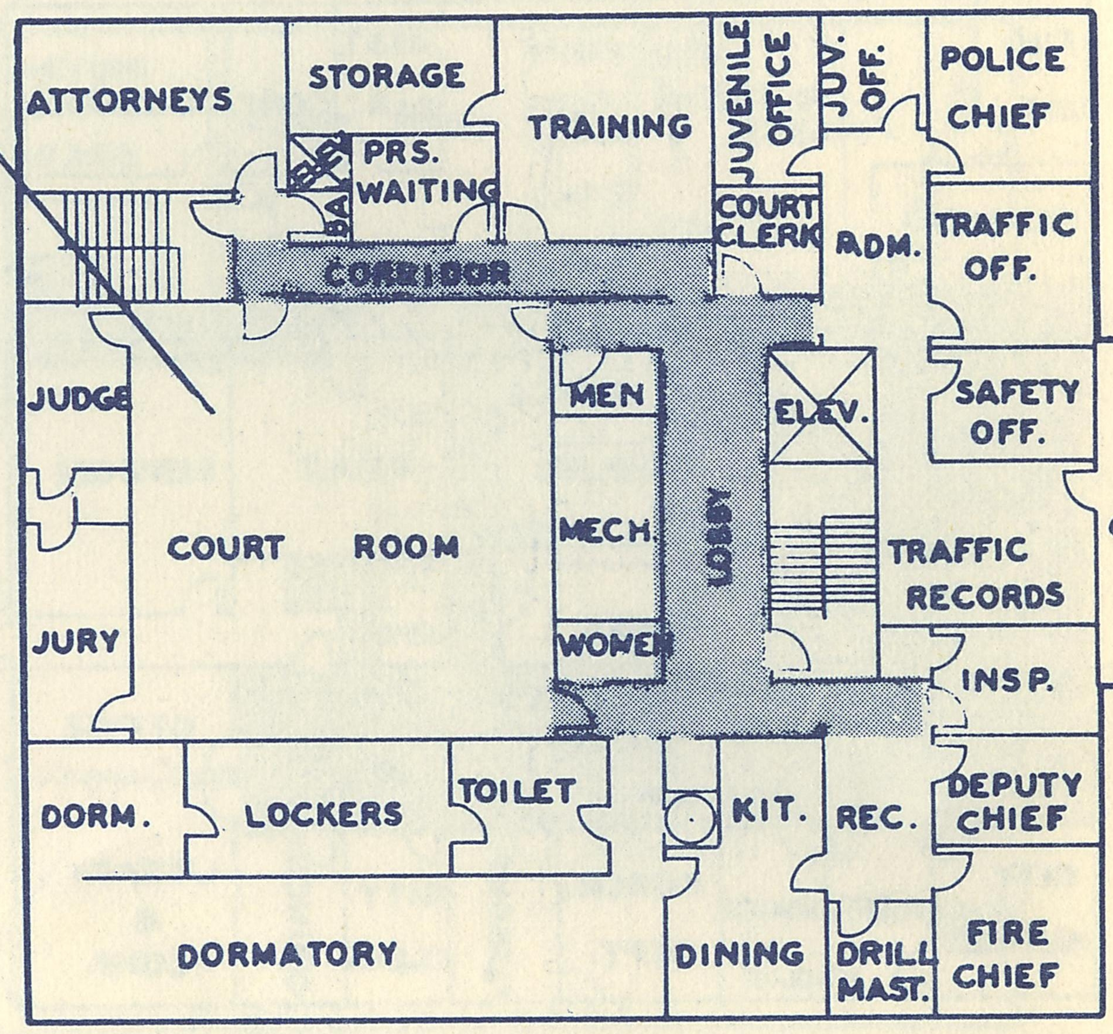
TABULATION ROOM

The City uses IBM equipment such as the 402 accounting machine, sorter and collator to help produce water bills, checks and various general accounting and financial reports. These machines have proved to be not only great time-savers, but also savers of your tax dollars. On order is equipment that will automatically process water and parking ticket receipts.



ELGIN CITY COURT

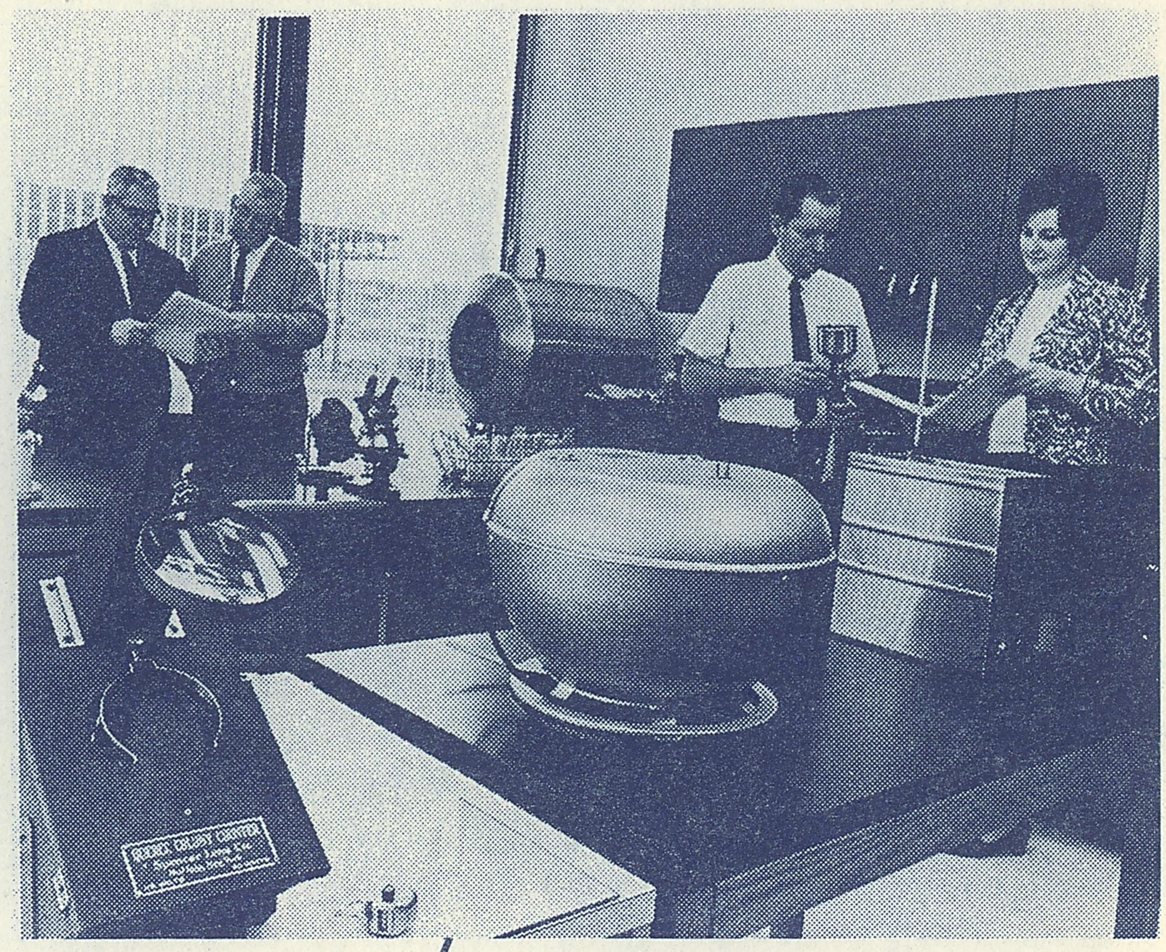
The Branch Court of the Sixteenth Judicial Court District is located on the second floor of the North wing conveniently near the Police Department offices. The Honorable Donald T. Anderson and Albert Zittinger are the presiding judges. In additon to the handsome court-room (pictured), the judicial complex includes the judge's chambers, a lawyer's conference room and the State's Attorney Clerk's office.

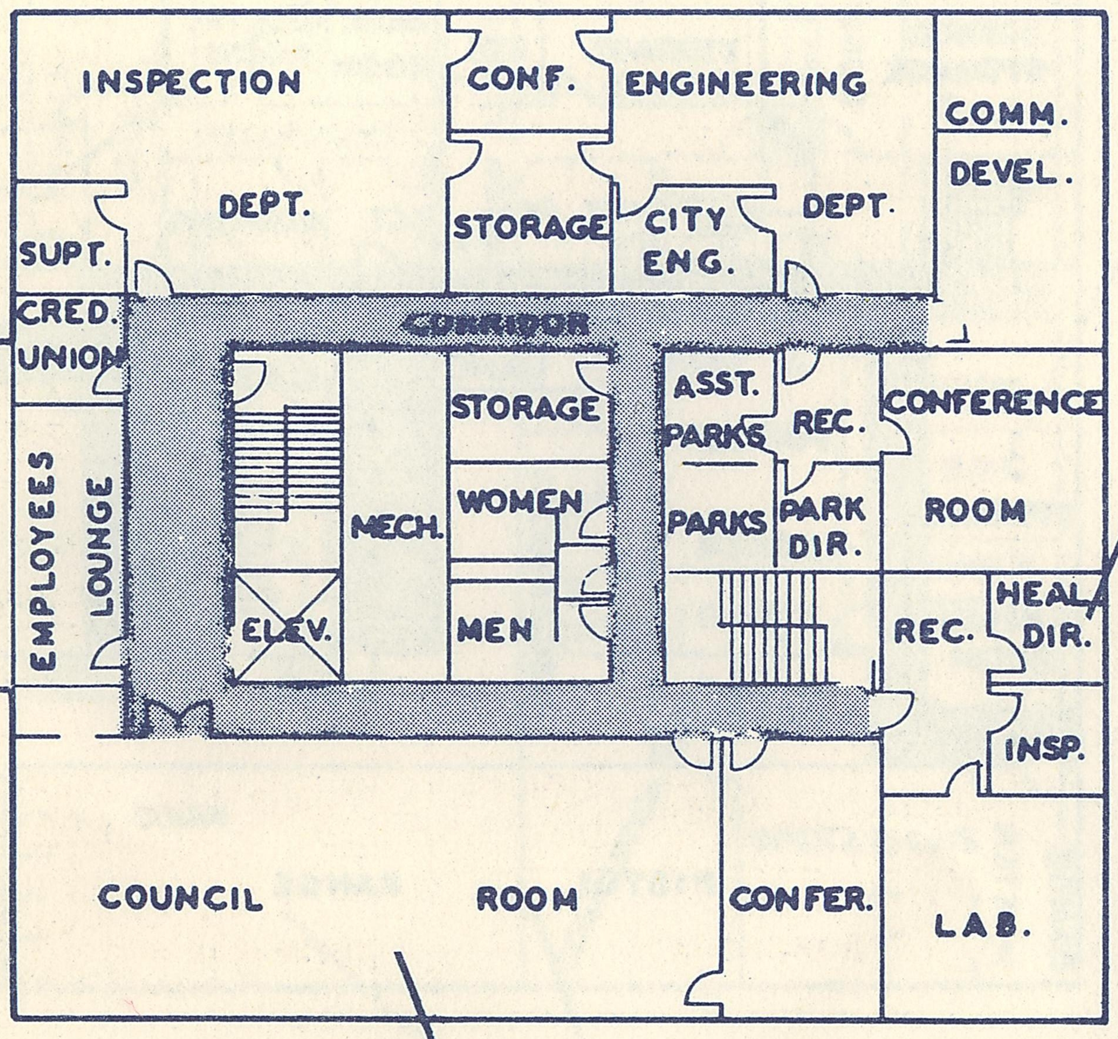


SECOND FLOOR

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

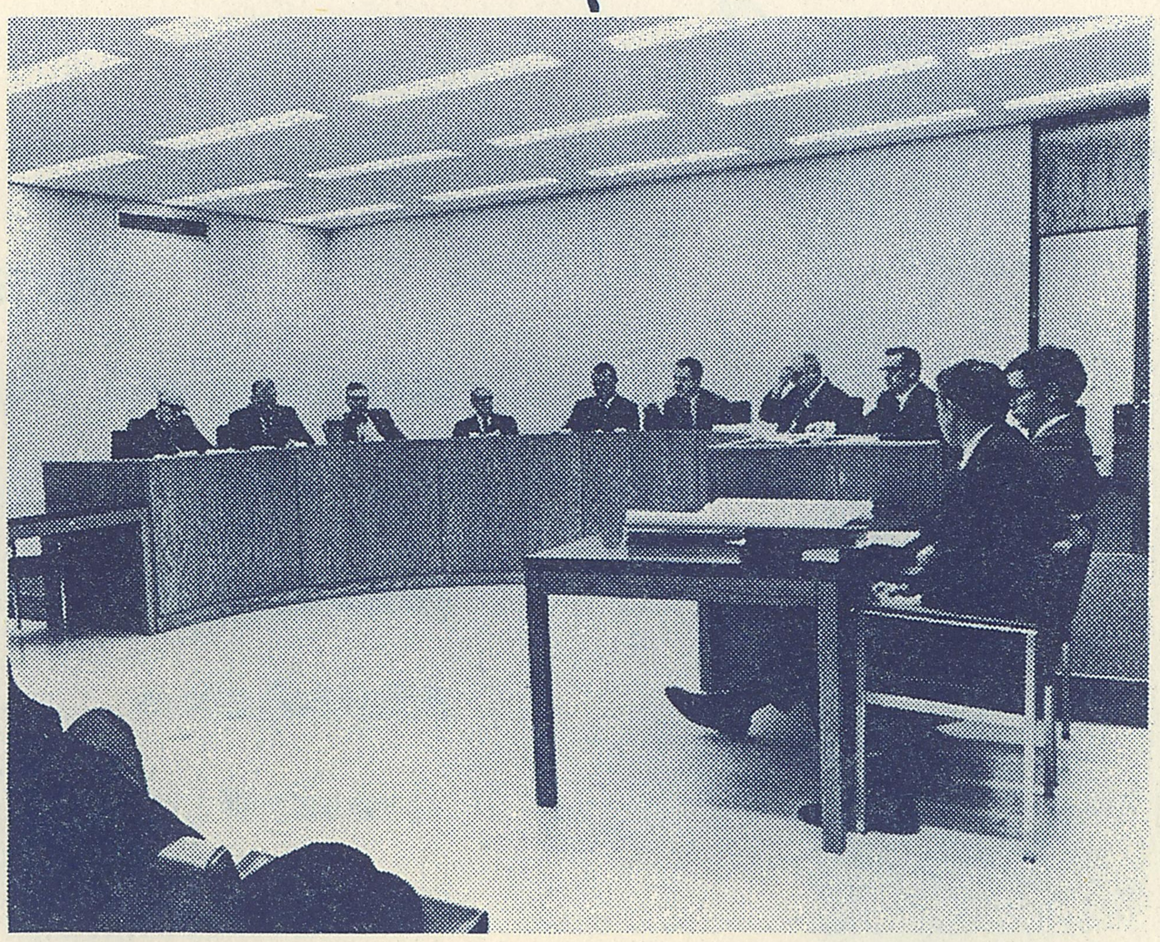
The new Council Chamber provides a comfortable and attractive area in which the affairs of the City are conducted. The spacious seating capacity allows more than one hundred citizens to view the deliberations of the mayor and council. There is room behind the raised council table for at least two additional councilmanic positions. A sensitive sound system ensures that the discussions will be heard in all parts of the chamber. Public hearings involving the Zoning Board of Appeals and Plan Commission as well as other public meetings are held in the chamber.





HEALTH-HOUSING DEPARTMENT

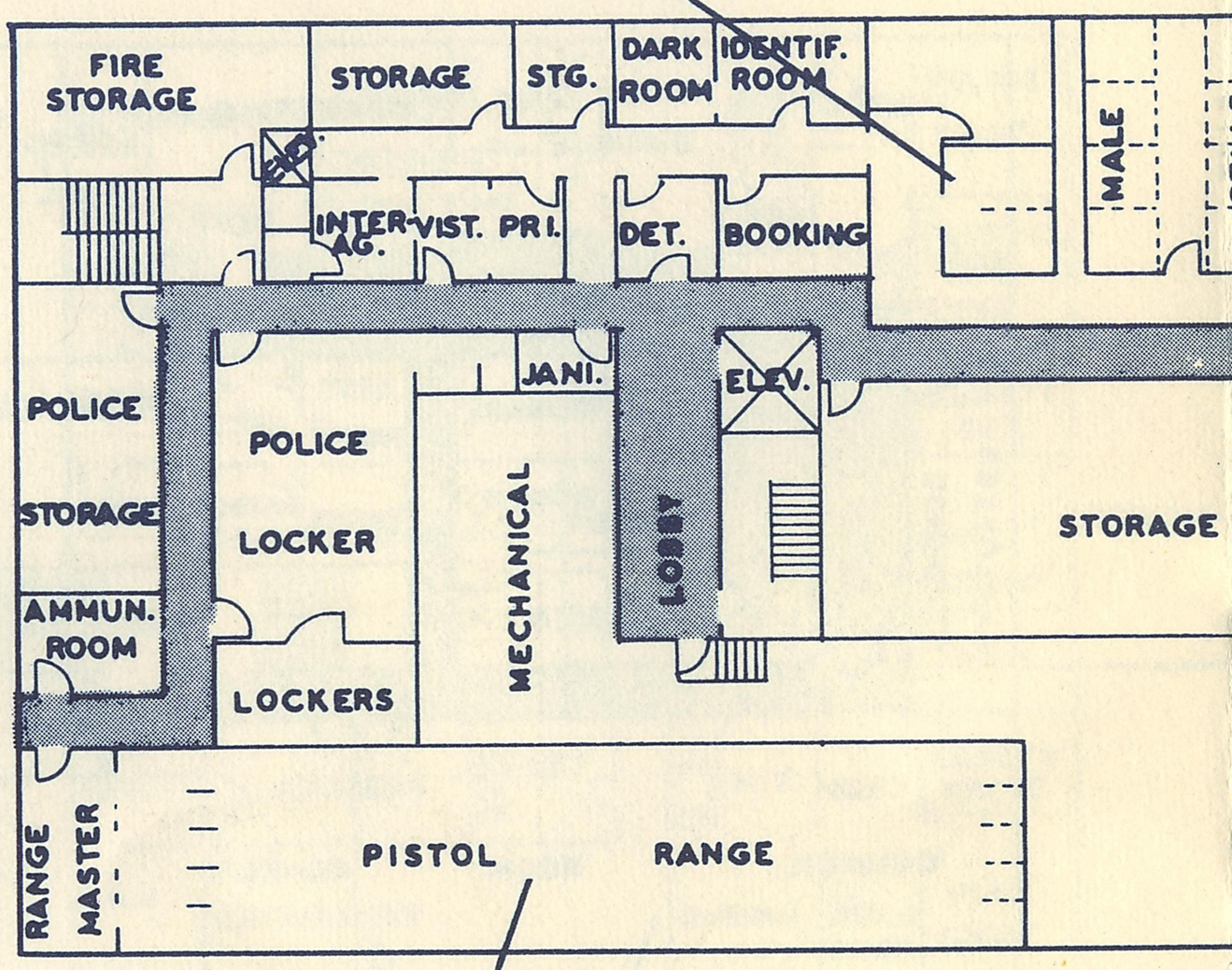
The Health and Housing Department carries out a wide variety of important programs to protect and promote your health and welfare. To ensure the cleanliness of food and drink, the Department makes periodic inspections of restaurants, food processing establishments, grocery stores, bakeries, taverns, dairies and City's water supply. The spread of unsanitary and unsafe dwelling units is checked by the Department by their enforcement of the City Housing Code.



JAIL DETENTION AREA

The basement of the North wing includes many modern police facilities that expedite prisoner processing and handling. Initial prisoner processing takes place in the Booking Room. The Identification Room is used for photographing and fingerprinting the subjects. The two Interrogation Rooms are used for the private questioning of suspects or prisoners. Adjacent to these rooms is the Jail Detention Area. Both the jail area and these rooms are located in a maximum security area that are monitored by closed-circuit television in the Communication Center. The jail is divided into separate cell blocks used for the detention of a particular category of prisoner, such as juveniles, females, drunks and those charged with minor crimes.

BASEM



PISTOL RANGE

Police will be able to maintain their proficiency with small firearms on the pistol range located in the basement of the North wing. The range has five firing positions, each equiped with its own target hanging from a monorail. The distance between the firing line and target is individually adjustable between 50 and 75 feet. Many special safety devices have been incorporated in the range's design to ensure the safety of the policemen while using the range.

MECHANIC

Boilers 2-

Chillers

Heat Exchange

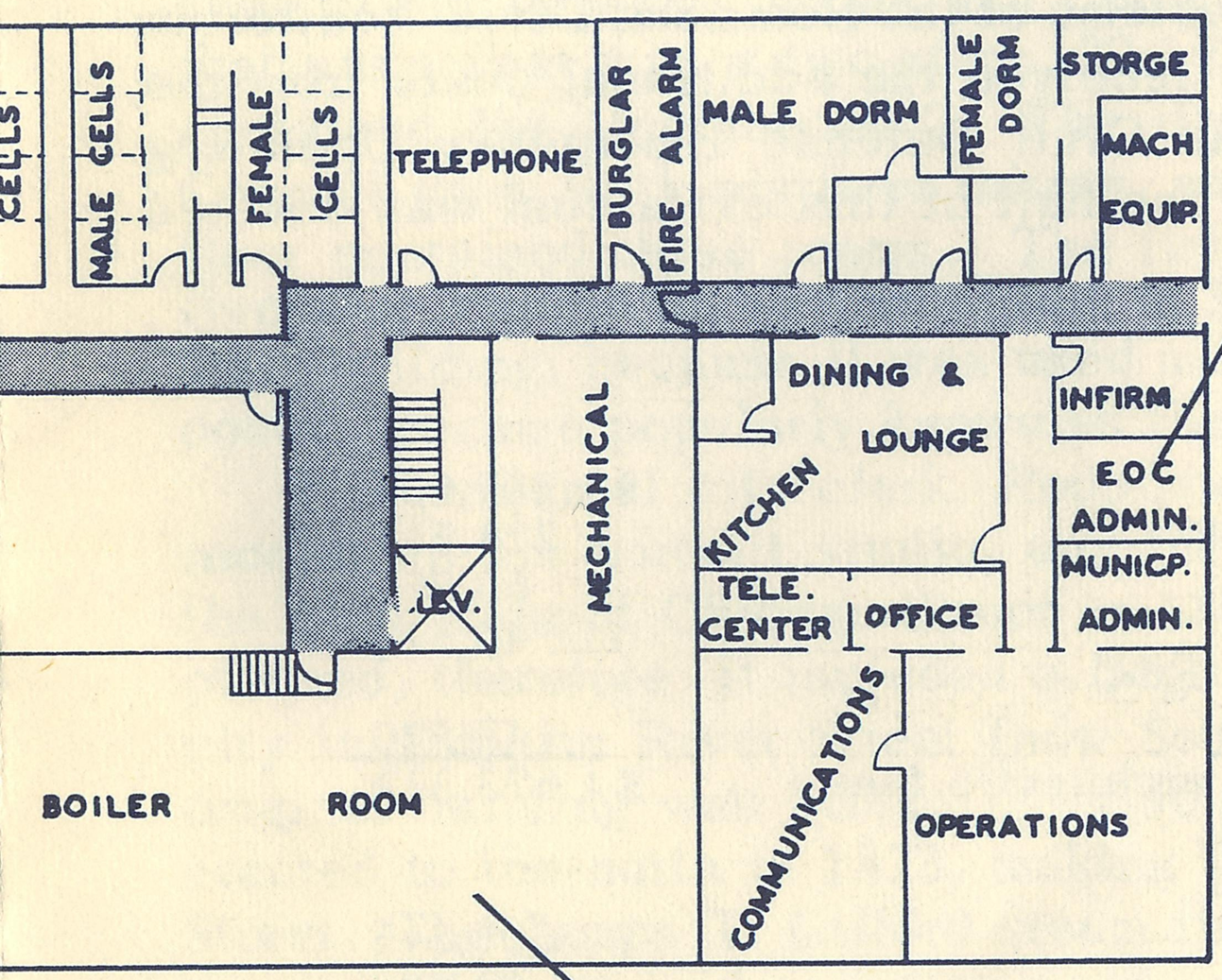
Air Handlers

Pumps

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The EOC is designed to help carry on the functions of the City during a natural disaster or national emergency. This Civil Defense facility can accomodate a 53-man staff that will provide citizens with continuous 24-hour emergency instruction by phone and radio. To facilitate this important communication function, the center is equiped with a Communications Room, Telephone Room and Message Center. The communications equipment will enable community leaders and Civil Defense Director to maintain contact with Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, as well as the hospitals and the State Police.

The Operations Room will be used by the staff to formulate emergency plans and policies. For prolonged disasters or emergencies, the EOC includes a kitchen, dining area and two dormitories. Emergency power and heat are provided by means of a 100 KW generator. Water is supplied by a special well. Federal Grants covered 50% of the cost of the EOC.



BOILER & MECHANICAL ROOMS

The Boiler Room and adjoining Mechanical Room contains a wide array of the necessary equipment for temperature and humidity control in both towers. Heating, air-conditioning, as well as hot and chilled water will also be supplied by this equipment to the Hemmens Memorial Building when completed. The center of operations is an environmental control station which monitors the operating condition of all basic heating and air-conditioning equipment.

Warning horns and red lights notify the operator immediately of an interruption in safety control and aids in pinpointing the source of trouble. Other equipment necessary for the efficient operation of the building includes: chemically treated water softeners, emergency power generator and sewage ejector stations.

ENT

CAL DATA

199 H.P. low pressure

2 - 257 ton centrifugal

Steam to hot water

5 - Supply

8 - Exhaust

Twenty-eight

MUNICIPAL BUILDING FACTS

THE PROJECT

Approximately 25 acres were redeveloped in the downtown area with the use of the Urban Renewal Funds. The new City Hall, the Appellate Court building, the new Library, and the Hemmens Civic Auditorium are now located in the area along with space for parking over 600 automobiles.

The area is being designed to reflect a park-like area with trees and shrubs throughout the project area. It is to be an area of beauty and function. With the dedication of the City Hall, only the Hemmens Civic Auditorium remains to be completed. During 1969, all buildings and landscaping will be completed.

The bid was awarded to the A. H. Sollinger Construction Company, Inc., on October 13, 1966, for constuction of the new City Hall.

THE FINANCING

On November 20, 1962, the voters overwhelmingly approved the $1,200,000 Bond Issue to construct this new facility. Below are the methods used to finance construction and purchase equipment for the building. The costs were greater than anticipated because of three reasons: (1) construction costs skyrocketed, (2) the heating and cooling systems of the Hemmens Civic Auditorium are located in the City Hall (the City received the additional costs from the Hemmens Trust Account), and (3) the Civil Defense Emergency Operating Center was included in the City Hall (one-half of this extra cost was covered by a Federal Grant).

Building	
Bond Issue	$ 1,200,000
Investment Income from Bond Issue	224,514
Hemmens Trust	60,751
Federal Grant for EOC	40,547
Civil Defense Fund Transfers for EOC	
Water Fund Transfer - for offices	147,520
Total Cost of Building, including architect's fees	$ 1,673,332
Equipment and Furnishings	
General Corporate Transfers	$ 205,545
Water Fund	32,480
Civil Defense Fund Transfers for EOC Equipment	28,775
City Employees (20 – Club) - Plaque	1,102
Fire and Police Alarm Charges	19,700
Total cost of all equipment including Communications, Pistol Range and Furniture	$ 287,602
GRAND TOTAL	$ 1,960,934

AREA DATA OF ELGIN CITY HALL

TOTAL SQ. FT. OF BUILDING	62,209 sq. ft.
1. Civil Defense Emergency Operating Center	4,687 sq. ft.
2. Police Department	13,592 sq. ft.
3. Fire Department	7,400 sq. ft.
4. Courtroom	2,615 sq. ft.
Total Construction Cost	$1,524,948.68
Square Foot Cost	24.52
Cost of equipment, including communications equipment, pistol range, furniture, ect., architectural fees and miscellaneous approximately	$ 400,000.00

ELGIN'S FIVE CITY HALLS

by Mayor E. C. Alft

As Elgin's population has grown and the city's services have expanded, our city halls have increased in size. This new building contains more space than our four previous city halls combined.

In 1854, when Elgin received its city charter and Dr. Joseph Tefft was elected mayor, the city hall was located above Cornell and Wilder's grocery and saloon three doors west of the railroad tracks on the north side of Chicago Street. This was used primarily as a meeting place for the Council, since the records were kept at the city clerk's daguerrean gallery nearby.

A city court was established in 1857 and a lockup was much needed. To provide space for them, in May of 1859 the city under Mayor Andrew Jackson Waldron entered into an agreement with Edwin F. Reeves, a masonry contractor, to rent a building to be constructed by him on a lot on the south side of Chicago Street between Spring and Center. The structure erected and occupied that same year was a two-story, 22 by 50 foot brick building. The basement contained the "calaboose". The first floor was fitted out as a court and Council room, with platform railing, and jury and witness seats. The second floor contained three rooms. The first agreement with Reeves prescribed a five-year lease with an annual rent of $200 and exemption from property taxes. This building, because it was used more frequently for judicial than city purposes, became popularly known as the City Court House.

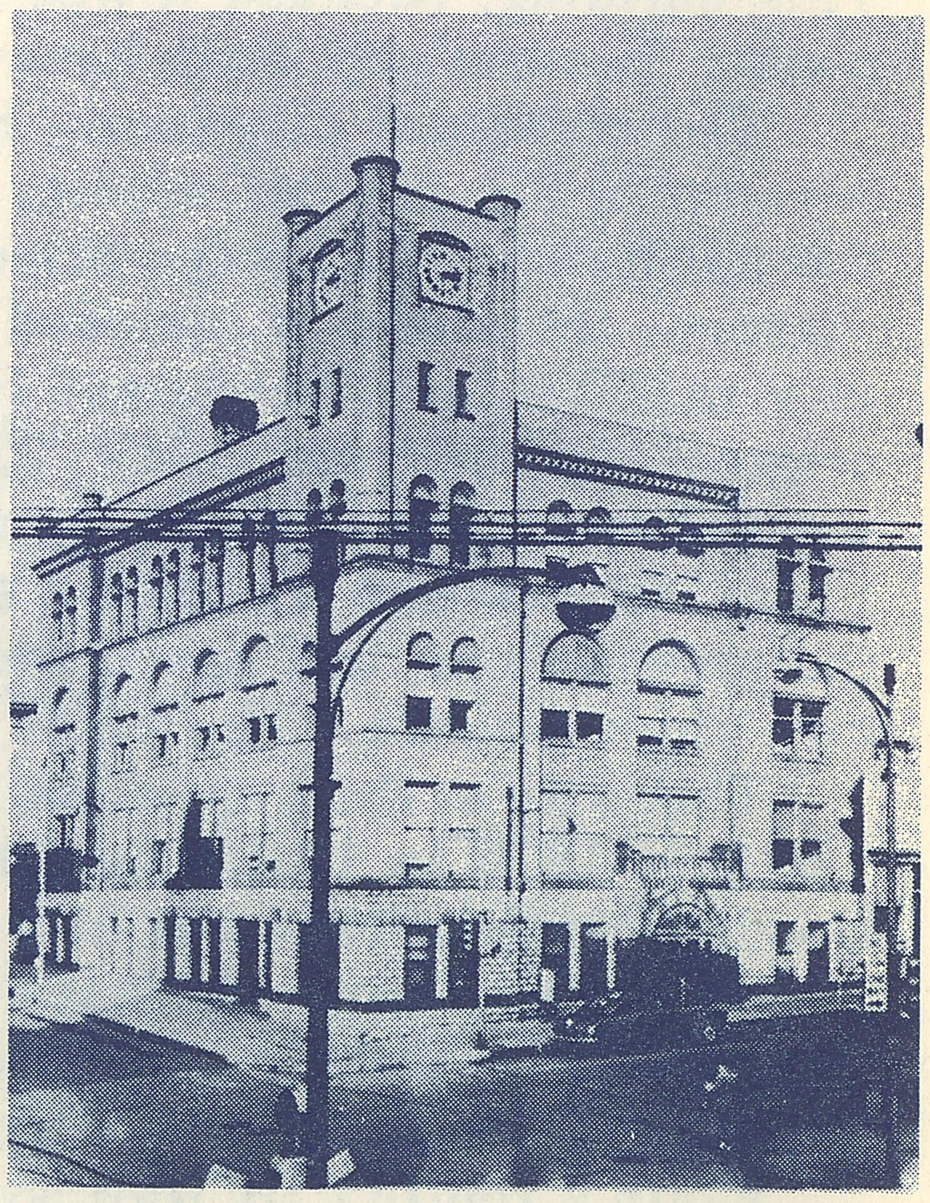
The perennial city clerk, Rodolphus W. Padelford, continued to keep the records in his portrait studio, and they went up in flames when a fire swept the north side of Chicago Street in 1865. When a new City Court House was planned, therefore, it included a large fireproof vault. This was built by the city in 1869 on River Street (now South Grove) at the end of DuPage. The original building was brick, 22 by 40 feet, and a 22 by 60 foot addition was erected to the north in 1873, making the total frontage 44 feet along DuPage Street. The James T. Gifford steam fire engine and a hose company occupied the ground floor, and space was not only provided for a court room but for the city clerk's office. The whole structure, including the addition, cost $16,000.

The city's third quarters grew inadequate as the population rose from 5,431 in 1870 to 17,723 in 1890. The Court House was vulnerable to river flooding, and in 1884 the city purchased the Waverly, an abandoned hotel on the southwest corner of State and Galena (now Highland Avenue). The city fathers were thinking of converting this into a new municipal building, but this proved impractical, and the calaboose was moved there instead.

Elgin's fourth City Hall was built on the site of a hay market on the northeast corner of Chicago and Spring Streets. It was first occupied on July 17, 1893. Of Victorian-Gothic design, its red-brick exterior was topped by a clock tower and peaked slate roof. Mayor William E. Grote donated the town clock out of his own pocket at a cost of between $1,000 and $1,500, or twice as much as his entire salary for his term of office. The three floors and basement were really too large for the city's needs at the time, and the third floor was left unfinished. This structure was to serve the city for seventy-five years, a span of time in which Elgin's population and its area nearly tripled.

Three forms of city government held sway in this building: the mayor-council form was replaced by the commission plan in 1911, which in turn yielded to the council-manager idea in 1955. The old City Hall was the stamping-ground of some of the most colorful mayors, aldermen, commissioners, and councilmen in Elgin history, and its walls echoed and re-echoed with their political hassles, but the building itself was never really loved. In 1912 a fire gutted the I. Cohen department store on Fountain Square. Cohen, anxious to continue an expanding business, boldly made city officials a cash offer for their City Hall. It was his intention to remodel it into a store. Some of the city fathers seriously considered the proposition and went so far as to examine sites on Center and Villa Streets, but no action was taken.

In 1920 the Palm Sunday tornado knocked the City Hall out of line. The damage was patched up, but the timbers were weakened, and it wasn't considered safe to complete the third floor. By 1929 a Courier-News editorial advocated its replacement and opined: "It is, withal, something of an unsightly, antiquated pile, considered from an artistic viewpoint. . . .The visitor, viewing the present administrative center, is unimpressed. . . .The city is plainly 'out of step' in the present march of progress, with a public building erected when Elgin emerged from the horse-and-buggy era."



Politicians and city employees were not the only inhabitants of the old City Hall. In April, 1925, the structure became so rat-infested that attempts were made to eliminate them with poisened fish and hamburger. The results were disappointing. In October of that year the Daily Courier reported that a large rat became hopelessly intoxicated on whisky and wine mash seized in a Prohibition raid. "Groping and staggering about, the rat finally stumbled to the floor, unable to get to its feet."

The Depression ended thoughts of a new building, but federal aid in the form of two CWA projects totalling $15,000 made possible repairs and alterations in 1933-34. The tall clock tower was cut down and the clock lowered and re-installed; the heavy slate roof was replaced by a flat one; and the interior was redecorated. The remodeling did not still criticism of the aging

building. By 1939 Ed Clifford, a newspaper columnist, was mincing few words:

> "Confidentially, as the current popular phrase goes, the city hall is awful. It discourages, rather than encourages, citizens to visit it. . . .
>
> "To reach any of the executive offices, a long flight of steps must be climbed. . . .The cubby holes provided on the second floor, except the mayor's office, offer neither comfort nor privacy. . . .
>
> "The average business, so housed, would fail in six months. Most residences, as archaic, have long since been torn down."

In 1961 the City Hall was condemned by the state fire marshall as a fire hazard, and the following year the voters approved the sale of bonds for Elgin's fifth municipal building to be located in the Civic Center urban renewal project. Completed at a cost approaching $2,000,000, the new structure was first occupied on December 2, 1968. Its carpeted floors, air-conditioned rooms, automatic elevators, and abundant space will be a source of community pride for many years to come.

CITIZEN'S WELCOME MUNICIPAL BUILDING

DEDICATION PROGRAM

1:15 P.M. Sunday, February 2, 1969

Thomas Loveday, Master of Ceremonies
Chairman of original Citizens Advisory
Committee for the Civic Center

Invocation ..... Rev. George Schiffmayer
President, Clergymen Association of Greater Elgin

National Anthem ..... Robert Eppley
City Manager, Wheaton, Illinois

Remarks ..... Architects
General Contractor
Mayor E. C. Alft

Introductions ..... Former Mayors:
Clyde Shales 1963-1967
Leroy Mote 1959-1963
Orlo Salisbury 1955-1959
Myron Lehman 1951-1955

Acceptance of Gifts

American Flag ..... Elgin Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution
Elgin Flag ..... Miss Myrtle Spiegler
Bronze Seal ..... Twenty Plus Club
Police Plaque ..... The Elgin-Mexican Guadalupano Club

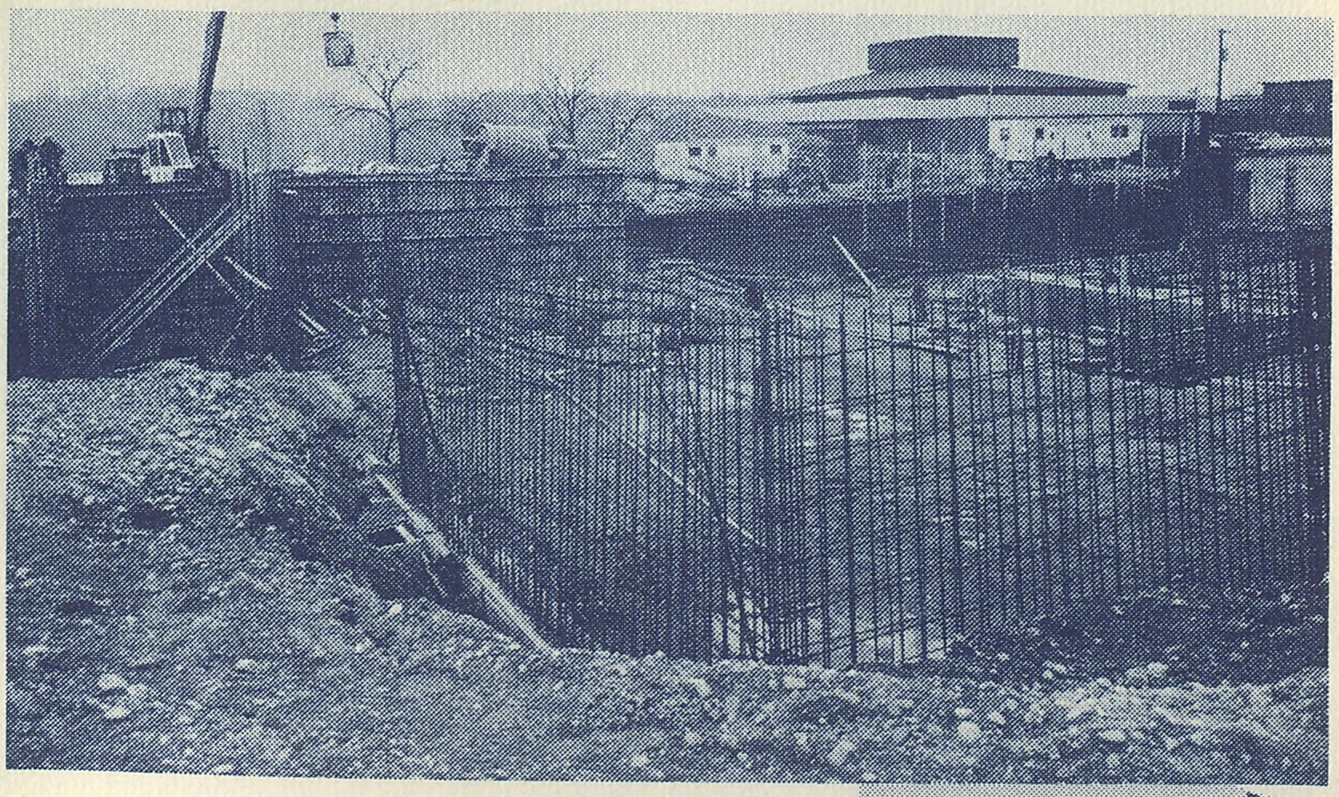
Benediction ..... Rev. George Schiffmayer

Open House 2:00 - 7:00 P.M.

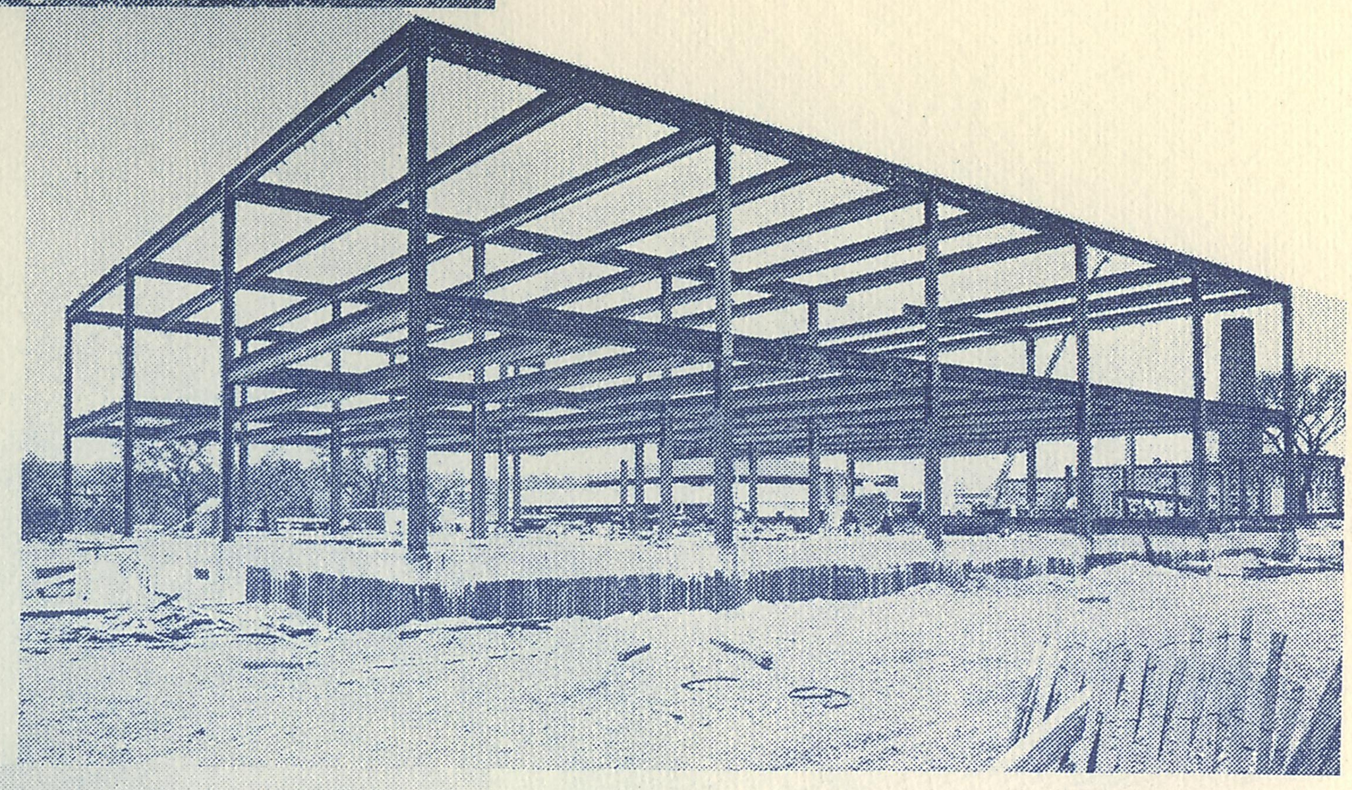
APPRECIATION

The following organizations or businesses have contributed to underwrite the cost of the open house:

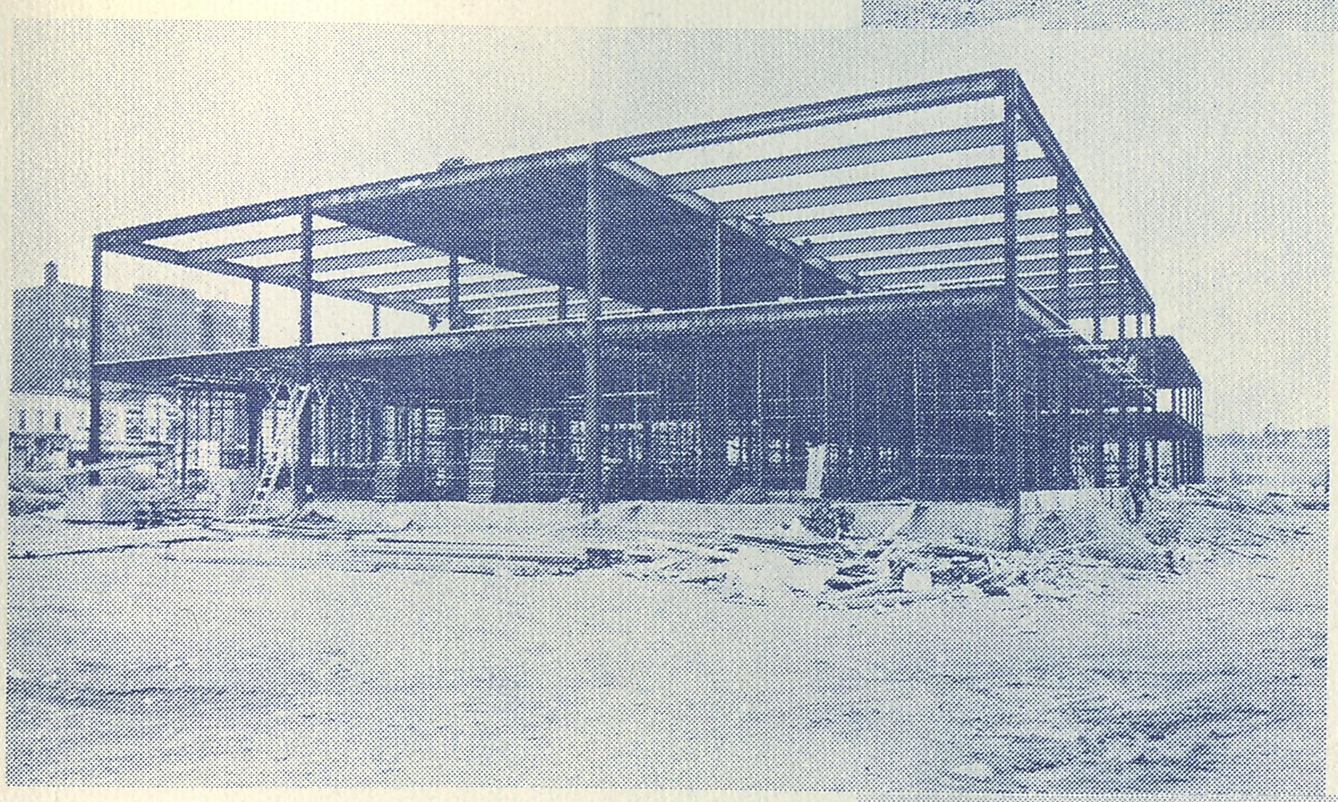
Elgin City Employees Credit Union
Elgin Fire Fighters
Kaltenbach and Rennie, Architects
W. A. Gavelek
Elgin Sheet Metal Company
F. J. Bero and Company, Inc.
Carey Electric Contracting, Inc.
The Sievert Corporation
Elgin Police Benevolent and Protection Association



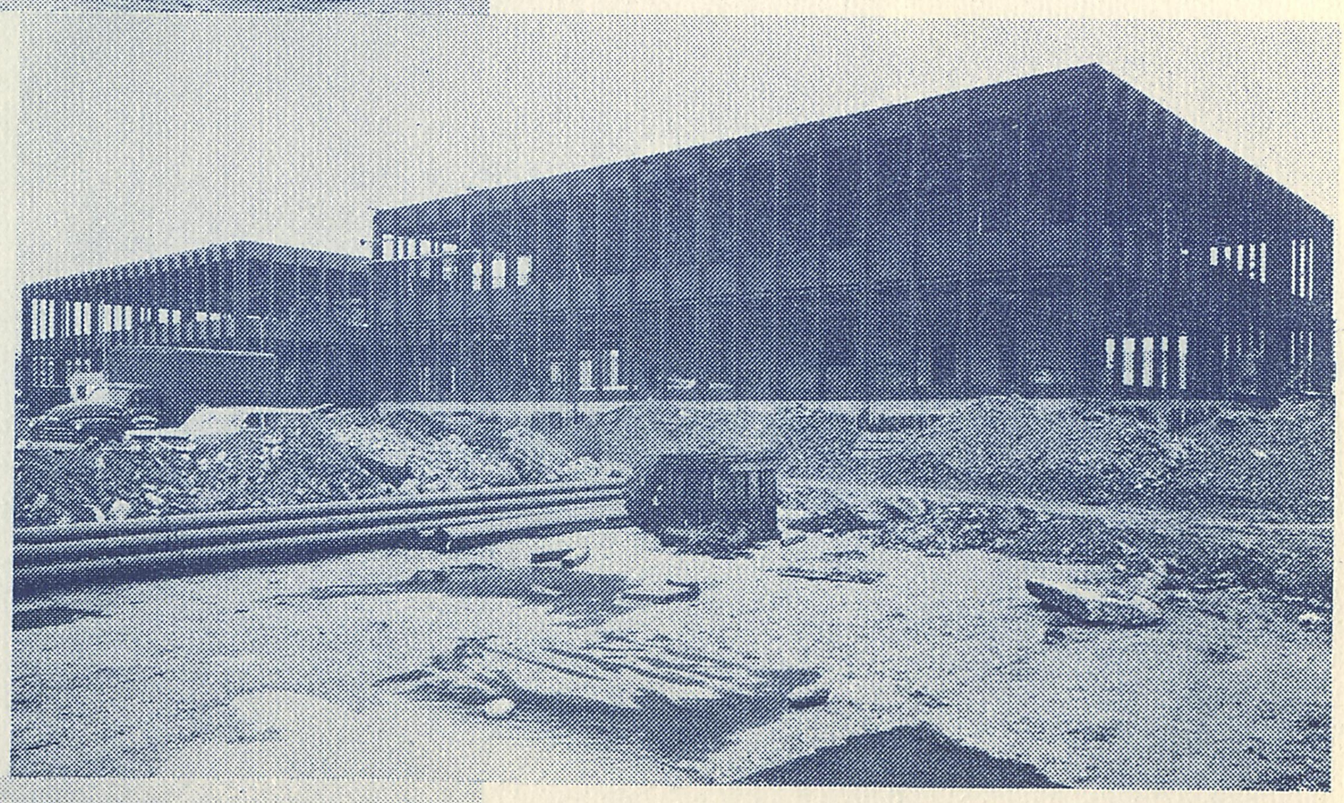
January 1967



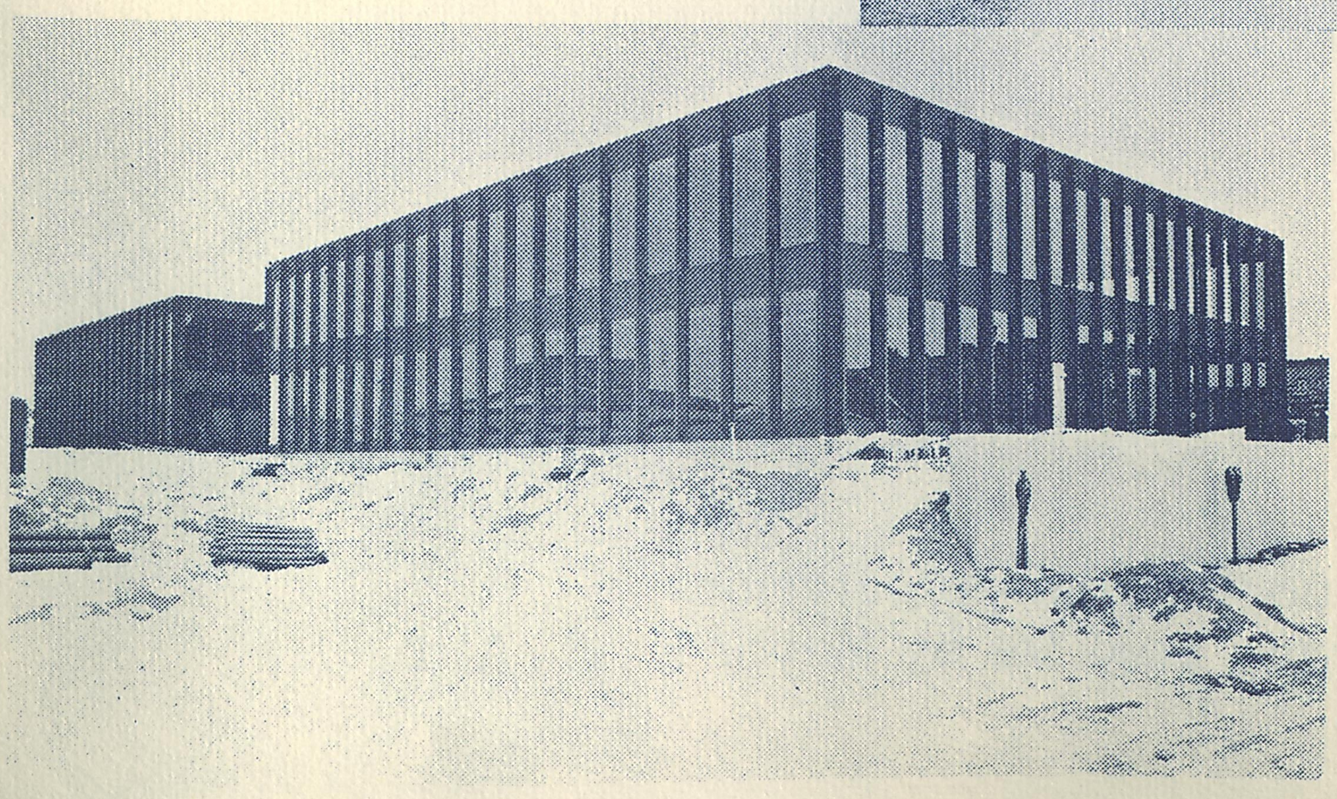
May 1967



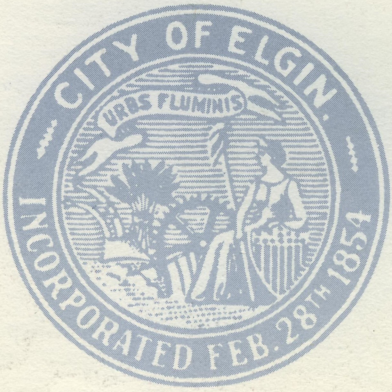
September 1967



December 1967



March 1968



The cost of the preparation
of this booklet was paid for by Mayor E. C. Alft.